

21st Century

NATIVE threads

Eeyou Istchee Powwows

Trapline Teachings

Remembering Judy

\$2.50

Free in Iyiyuuschii

Serving Iyiyuuschii since 1993

Canada Post Publication No. 40015005

James Bay Telephone Book 2017
20th ANNIVERSARY

Special Vintage Pricing

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the James Bay Cree Telephone Book; the only phone book specifically created for the James Bay Cree communities. Beesum Communications is proud to distribute this important Cree resource for FREE to every household in Eeyou Istchee.

Ad space starting
as low as \$ 799
for the Whole Year!



Contact Information

Danielle Valade (*Sales Representative*)

Office: 514-272-3077

Fax: 514-278-9914

Email: ads@nationnews.ca



BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

Publisher of the James Bay Cree Telephone Book
4529 Clark Street, Suite 403 Montreal, QC H2T 2T3
www.beesum.com

CONTENTS



10 | Mohawk designer Tammy Beauvais garnering celebrity attention



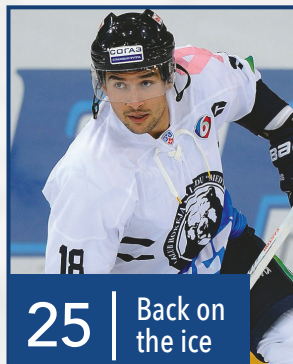
14 | Heather Dickson follows her passion



16 | Celebrating Powwow season in Eeyou Istchee



22 | Trapline Memoirs



25 | Back on the ice

EDITORIAL

Remembering Judy 4

NEWS

Standing Rock 5

Mistissini Subway 7

IN BRIEF

9

FEATURES

Native threads

A bead on business 10

Headband demand 14

Powwow roundup 16

Hunting identity 22

Lace em' up 25

UTNS

Faces of hope 26



Cover
Model Chanise Menacho for
Dickson Designs
Photo by
Shawna McLeod

Send us your **cellphone number** to be included
for **FREE** in the James Bay Cree Telephone Book.



514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | www.beesum.com

Judith Lynn Campy MacLeod

September 2, 1954-August 27, 2016

by Will Nicholls



The Cree School Board was founded in 1978. The year after that, Judy Campy arrived in Mistissini as one of the first teachers to work for the CSB. She would become one of the community's longest-serving educators, only leaving the profession for health reasons. Even then, Judy always kept in touch with former students and their children through social media.

Judy died after a tragic accident August 27, leaving a community in mourning. The celebration of her life on September 1 demonstrated the love of the Cree of Mistissini for a woman who chose to live the rest of her life there.

After Judy married Don MacLeod, she worked hard to learn the Cree way of life. How well the community embraced her was evident during a slideshow of her life at her funeral when a photo of a Cree Trappers' Association card with her name and number came up. Everyone clapped and cheered.

Judy's four daughters – Louise Margaret MacLeod Lemay, Kelly-Anne Malas, Krystyna MacLeod and Carrie-Lynn MacLeod – together took turns describing her life. The following is in their words.

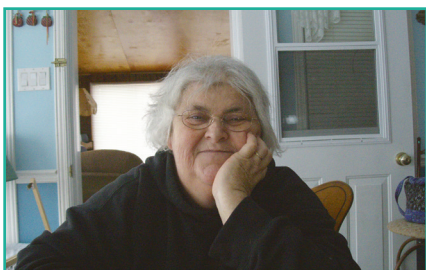


Photo by Brendan Forward



Moving to Mistissini allowed her to meet some amazing people who helped her feel at home. They were also responsible for introducing mom to our father. They married on June 28, 1986. From there they were blessed with four daughters, one handsome little grandson and two son-in-laws. Their love for one another is something that is very dear to our hearts.

We believe that this is where she truly discovered her passion for teaching. At the age of 25, she moved away from her home down south to come teach in Mistissini. Mom used to always say that she hopped on a plane, travelled all the way to Chibougamau and found out which community she was going to be placed at when she arrived at the airport.

My dad recalls how brave and strong my mom was. He remembers how she adapted so well coming from a city that had everything, to moving into a place with my father that had no running water, no sewage system and had an outhouse. She embraced the Cree culture and traditions as if it was her own.

She kept finding ways that she could continue to teach, whether it be through

her helping us with our homework or volunteering to teach little ones to read.

She loved reading, singing and watching others learn. Qualities that she will be remembered by are her kindness, warm hugs, encouraging words, focusing on the positives, laughter, and so much more. She always made everyone feel so welcomed and at home. She never judged a book by its cover. To many of you she became Aunt Judy or Aunt "J".

Our mom taught us to be patient, to never judge others as we may not know what they might be going through, tell the people in your life that you love them each and every day, remember where you came from, be kind to others and to remember to take time just to listen when others may need it the most. She always would say, "If you got nothing nice to say don't say anything at all."

We always knew our mom was an amazing person but hearing stories of her and seeing how many hearts she touched we feel forever proud and blessed to have called her our mom.

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications **EDITORIAL BOARD** L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, M. Siberok, Mr. N. Diamond, E. Webb **EDITOR IN CHIEF** Will Nicholls **DIRECTOR OF FINANCES** Linda Ludwick **EDITORS** Lyle Stewart, Martin Siberok, Amy German **PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR** Joshua Grant **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** W. Nicholls, X. Kataquapit, D. Isaac, J. Grant, J. Barde, D. Coyle, X. Cowan **DESIGN** Matthew Dessner, Jinheng Taing **SALES AND ADVERTISING** Danielle Valade, Wendall Gull, Viola-Rose Day **THANKS TO: Air Creebec**

CONTACT US: The Nation, 4529 CLARK, #403, Montreal, QC., H2T 2T3 **EDITORIAL & ADS:** Tel.: 514-272-3077, Fax: 514-278-9914 **HEAD OFFICE:** P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, QC. J0M 1E0 www.nationnews.ca **EDITORIAL:** nation@nationnews.ca news@nationnews.ca **ADS:** Danielle Valade: ads@nationnews.ca Wendall Gull: wendall@nationnews.ca Viola-Rose Day: viola@nationnews.ca **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$60 plus taxes, US: \$90, Abroad: \$110, Payable to beesum communications, all rights reserved, publication mail #40015005, issn #1206-2642 **The Nation is a member of:** The James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle Of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Magazines Canada Quebec Community Newspaper Assn. Canadian Newspapers Assn. Les Hebdomadaires Du Québec.



by Joshua Grant

Stand-off in Standing Rock

Coon Come at Standing Rock

First Nations resistance grows towards a proposed pipeline on sacred land

Thousands of First Nations and activists have rallied around the Sioux of North Dakota in their opposition of the Dakota Access oil pipeline and joined the Sacred Stone resistance camp set up this past April. The camp is directed by Ladonna Brave Bull Allard, Standing Rock's Historical Preservation Officer, and stands near the proposed construction site about a half-mile from Standing Rock Reservation in Cannonball, North Dakota.

The "black snake", originally planned to pass the Missouri River north of Bismarck, was fast tracked by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers without the consultation or consent of the Sioux people. Its path would tear through sacred land, burial grounds and dig under the river-bed, endangering the nearby water supply and both the Missouri and Cannonball rivers.

"It is a historic trading ground, a place held sacred not only by the Sioux Nations, but also the Arikara, the Mandan and the Northern Cheyenne," said Brave Bull in an article she wrote for Yes! Magazine.

What began as a peaceful protest turned violent on September 3,

when unannounced bulldozing began on Sioux burial grounds over Labour Day weekend. Site security clashed with protesters who stepped over fences to obstruct the heavy machinery, spraying mace and siccing attack dogs on protestors, or from Sioux First Nation's perspective, protectors of the land.

On the following Tuesday, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order halting construction between Route 1806 and Lake Oahe but the order does not protect any of the sacred land in question. Energy Transfer Partners, the company responsible for the project has already built half of the pipeline. Should it see completion it would reach from Stanley, North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois.

While a federal ruling is imminent, resistance is growing stronger as more and more Indigenous peoples and their supporters journey to Standing Rock to join the fight. On September 8, North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple activated the National Guard in a limited role, having "about a dozen" armed soldiers take over a traffic control point on Highway 1806 in an effort to restrict southbound

traffic in the directions of the resistance camp to locals only.

Brave Bull remembers the way her family thrived thanks to the meeting point of the Missouri and Cannonball rivers, before U.S. Energy flooded the area when they created the Oahe dam in 1950. Even before energy projects came their way the military was attempting to eradicate their culture – Brave Bull's great-great-grandmother Mary Big Moccasin was one of the few survivors of the 1863 Inyan Ska (Whitestone) Massacre, taking a bullet and being held captive until 1870.

"The U.S. government is wiping out our most important cultural and spiritual areas," said Brave Bull. "And as it erases our footprint from the world, it erases us as a people."

"These sites must be protected, or our world will end, it is that simple. Our young people have a right to know who they are. They have a right to language, to culture, to tradition. The way they learn these things is through connection to our lands and our history."

The situation in Standing Rock remains volatile and tense as both sides prepare for action.



The Cree Mineral Exploration Board

Our purposes are:

1. Assist the Crees in accessing mineral exploration opportunities.
2. Facilitate the development of mineral exploration enterprises with Cree entrepreneurship.
3. Help encourage the Crees and Cree enterprises benefit from Quebec's regular funding programs as well as other provincial assistance allocated to mineral exploration activities.
4. Act as main intermediary between offers and demands of services made to Cree enterprises in matters relating to mineral exploration.



**REACH OVER
100,000 CUSTOMERS
EVERY MONTH**

Advertise in the *Nation Magazine*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Danielle Valade
Tel: (514) 272-3077
Email: ads@nationnews.ca
www.nationnews.ca







CREE SCHOOL BOARD
Post Secondary Student Services

Are you considering post secondary studies? We can help!

WE ARE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING:

- Eligibility
- Financial Assistance
 - ♦ full-time studies
 - ♦ part-time studies
 - ♦ correspondence courses/programs
- Academic Support Services
- Social Support

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- March 1st to commence studies for the Fall semester
- October 1st to commence studies for the Winter semester
- Three months prior for any other official starting date

Apply online at www.cscree.qc.ca

Or fill out an official Application Form available at CSB schools and Sabtuan Adult Education Centres, and must be submitted and post-marked no later than the deadline!
Faxed or email applications are not acceptable

Post Secondary Student Services, 1440 Ste-Catherine St, West Suite 400, Montreal Qc, H3G 1R8 • Tel: 514-846-1155 • Fax: 514-846-1266 • Toll Free: 1 800-463-7402



**YOUR FORD
DEALER
IN AMOS**

42, 10e Avenue Ouest, Amos, Qc J9T 1W8
T: (866) 468-3205 • T: (819) 732-3205
Fax: (819) 732-8111 • www.somaford.com
English speaking sales reps: Patrice Charron,
Yannick Boutin, Alexandre Lavigne, Daniel Duclos



Rebates up to \$12,280
on Lariat SuperCrew 4x4, model 502A-157"-5L

**First Time Buyer
Program**

Have a full-time job? Want to buy
your first vehicle? Come talk to us!
We have a sweet deal for you!

ELIGIBLE COSTCO MEMBERS
RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL
\$1,000
TOWARDS MOST
NEW F-SERIES®
COSTCO
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Bella Moses-Petawabano re-elected as CBHSSJB Chair

After serving the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) as chairperson for four years, Bella Moses Petawabano was re-elected for a second term on September 7.

Petawabano took home 55.78% of the 2112 ballots that were cast, with only 15.39% of eligible voters showing up to the polls. Nominated alongside the incumbent were Charles Bobbish, Mabel Herodier, Pauline Lameboy and Clarence Snowboy.

"I am very honoured to be able to continue the work that we have begun over the last four years and keep the momentum going," said Petawabano

in her acceptance speech. "I am very grateful to our employees and professionals who demonstrate their devotion to our population every day.

"I am ready to meet, with your support, the main challenges that we are facing as a nation," she concluded. "We will be guided by priorities selected from members of all communities at the Waskaganish Health Assembly held last April... the plan is clear and we will secure the resources to carry it out. I will devote my time, energy and passion to provide the best health and social services for our population."



Bella Moses-Petawabano (middle)

Attawapiskat activist in key role for federal NDP



Chelsea Edwards

The tough 2015 federal election campaign saw the New Democratic Party lose most of the ground they gained with the Orange wave of the 2011 election, when they formed the official opposition under the late Jack Layton for the first time in their history. Now joining the battle is Chelsea Jane Edwards, a Cree from Attawapiskat, who was recently brought on as the NDP youth's new Aboriginal Director. Edwards will act as a liaison between the Young New Democrats and Canada's First Nations youth, helping the party hold Prime Minister Trudeau and his Liberal government accountable for the extensive commitments they made to Canada's First Nations on their electoral platform.

Edwards is no stranger to activism – she was good friends with the late Shannen Koostachin who battled and advocated for accessible education in First Nations communities and has been involved in founding and organizing the Shannen's Dream foundation that carries on Koostachin's vision. Charlie Angus, the NDP MP for Timmins – James Bay Ontario congratulated her on her new appointment. "I want to give a huge shout out to Chelsea J. Edwards who has been appointed the Aboriginal Director of the Young New Democrats," Angus said. "She took the fight for Indigenous youth rights to the United Nations. Change is coming and I am so glad to see it happening."





A bead on business

Mohawk designer Tammy Beauvais

hits her stride with high-profile customers

by Dan Isaac



Tammy Beauvais

Receiving a commission from the spouse of the Canadian prime minister is a high honour for an artist. It's also one that doesn't come easy: for Mohawk fashion designer Tammy Beauvais the commission from Sophie Gregoire Trudeau was the culmination of a lifetime of hard work.

"This is 20 years of keeping my nose to the grindstone," said Beauvais. "When something like this happens, it makes you realize that all the hard times were worth it."

Beauvais produced a beaded cape for Gregoire Trudeau, which she then gifted to Michelle Obama, the First Lady of the United States, during the Trudeaus' visit to Washington, DC, earlier this year. For Beauvais, that was the icing on the cake.

"Michelle Obama is such an amazing, intelligent and inspirational person, but she's also a fashion icon," exclaimed Beauvais.

The high stakes made the commission a bit terrifying for Beauvais. "There's so many questions that run through your mind as you prepare, design and work on it," she said. "You always wonder – am

I going to get it done on time? Are they going to like it? Am I good enough? It's an absolutely scary, stressful and exciting experience."

Beauvais started out creating strictly traditional styled clothing for people in her community of Kahnawake. Her current collections incorporate traditional Iroquois and other Indigenous symbols with contemporary-styled clothing.

"It was a conscious choice," said Beauvais on the decision to mix her cultural influences with her contemporary work. Her first effort to mix the two came when designing a gift for a friend in the late 1990s. "I made a cashmere scarf with Iroquois symbols on it, and that's when I realized I may have something here."

This isn't the first time her work has been recognized on an international platform. Early in her career, Aline Chrétien commissioned Beauvais to create a series of shawls for the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City.

However, she remembers a time when the mixing of traditional and contemporary wasn't accepted by either Indigenous or non-Indigenous communities.



*Dreamcatcher poncho
diagonal cut microsuede
\$48.00*

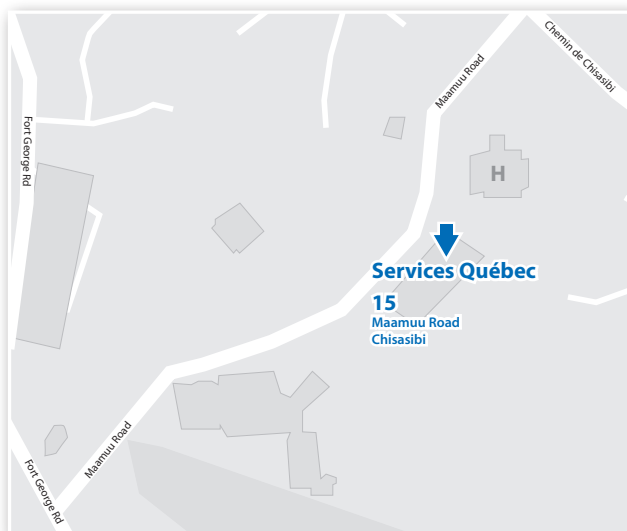
STARTING
OCTOBER 31, 2016

GROUPED TOGETHER TO SERVE YOU BETTER!

SOCIÉTÉ DE L'ASSURANCE AUTOMOBILE
DU QUÉBEC SERVICES AND CENTRE LOCAL
D'EMPLOI DE CHISASIBI SERVICES

UNDER THE SAME ROOF

- Social solidarity services
- SAAQ vehicle registration and driver's licence-related services
- Driving test services (road and knowledge)



www.gouv.qc.ca

1-877-644-4545 (toll free)

Friendly. Accessible. Direct.
Services Québec

ENSEMBLE
on fait avancer le Québec

Québec

"It wasn't really done back then. People just didn't get it. It was almost taboo," said Beauvais.

To gain acceptance for her designs, she approached actors such as Robert De Niro, Pierce Brosnan and Eric Roberts to pose for photos while wearing her work. "Once those photos got out into the media and my own people came around, then my business started to really move," said Beauvais.

This recent high-profile commission is helping her brand grow exponentially. "It's easier, customers are coming to us now. There's more mainstream interest," said Beauvais. "The other thing is Native symbols and Native style is a fad right now."

But more than a fad, Beauvais believes the perception of Indigenous people is changing in Canada. "By commissioning Indigenous artists, the Trudeaus are helping the mainstream be more inclined to see and support Indigenous people and artists," said

Beauvais. "The system is what it is. You can't change it overnight, but it's the small things that will help make the change."

Since the commission, Beauvais has been busy filling orders, meeting with fabric suppliers, sewing and designing her new line. At the time of our interview, her husband, who helps run the business, was packing the car so the two could vend at a distant pow-wow.

Despite her growing business, Beauvais still finds time to give back to her community. Recently she's been approaching the youth in the community about something else she's always had a talent for – investing money.

"You have to start thinking about these things when you're young, and nobody teaches us that," said Beauvais. "Anybody can be an artist, but can you make a business out of it? I always tell people that if they want to be an artist, go to business school."



*Earth cape embellish
with eagle feathers
\$75.00*

Dickson Designs finds success with a new twist on grandma's "hankie"

When Heather Dickson started Grade 8, her grandmother told her she had the year to make a major life decision – to choose what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"She said, 'You better pick something you'll enjoy doing every day,'" Dickson recalls from her home in Whitehorse, Yukon.

At the end of the year, Dickson chose to become a fashion designer. So her grandmother purchased her a new sewing machine.

Teenagers, of course, tend to change career choices every eight minutes – but not Dickson. Now 25, she is using that very same sewing machine to help run her burgeoning fashion enterprise.

Her products are brightly coloured headbands adorned with intricate beading. They are striking pieces that explode with vivid colour and feature beautiful First Nations designs.

The headbands were originally inspired by the silk "hankies" Dickson grew up seeing Elders wear elegantly draped over their hair, like a nun's bonnet, during special occasions.

Now her company, Dickson Designs, is employing First Nations women from across the North and having a hard time keeping up with demand. "When I put a call out, I thought the majority of people would be older – but they're not. Many are single mothers and students from smaller communities."

Dickson says that recruiting artists from different nations allows for a wide range of styles. "Two First Nations that are a few



Headband demand

by Joel Barde

Photos by Shawna McLeod



hours apart will have completely different styles," she explained.

Dickson adds artist tags to her products, which identify where the person who made them comes from. She says that it is her contribution to educating the public on the diversity of peoples who inhabit the North. "There's a whole pile of different people up here," she said. "And all of them are different."

The bulk of Dickson's sales are to Indigenous people, especially those in the North. But she is beginning to sell to non-Indigenous people – something she welcomes.

Unlike headdresses, she says her headbands aren't sacred items. "People tie their own meaning to the headband. It's been awesome. I'm getting non-Indigenous women ask if it's okay to wear the headbands. I say yes, it won't offend."

Working with traditional culture in the North is a dream come true for Dickson. She has a strong connection to Dāna Nāye Ventures, an Aboriginal business resource centre that she works with to develop her trade.

Curiously, it was only after Dickson left the North to study in Vancouver that she realized how powerful her connection to it was.

"My original thought was I'll never come back," said Dickson. "But it was kind of hard, not having access to traditional foods like caribou. And I also missed the sense of community, of knowing people when walking down the street. I felt strange not seeing my people and culture."

Dickson is focused on growing her business and takes joy in knowing that her headbands are giving First Nations women like her confidence and pride in their Indigenous heritage. "Some say they feel like a Native princess when they wear them. It gives people a sense of pride in where they come from."

Wemindji's Inaugural Powwow

by Xina Cowan

I've been to a fair number of powwows over the years, and they've all left me feeling really, really happy (and full). Whether they've had rain or shine, two drums or 12, they've all radiated the good energy of everyone who worked hard to make them happen.

This August 13-14, I travelled to Wemindji to attend its very first traditional powwow. It was the smallest one I'd been to, but it left me with a sense of joy and hope I'd never felt before. I was witnessing an enormous "first" for the community and for so many other James Bay Cree as well. As I stood on the grounds – a large piece of grassy land, just below the school along the riverside – I felt for the first time, "I'm witnessing a historic change."

This powwow was especially dear to my heart because Wemindji was my temporary home a few years back. I worked as a coordinator with the high school students, and discovered a whole new world I couldn't have ever dreamed up on my own. When I moved back to Montreal, I knew that my first visit back to the community warranted a really special occasion. So when I saw talk about the powwow on Facebook, it was an automatic bingo.

We all know that a powwow is serious business. Like any week-end-long, outdoor event, it requires blood, sweat and tears that typically start flowing months in advance. But Wemindji's powwow? Nuh uh, no sir. The beautiful, organized and heartfelt execution I saw had only been a light-bulb two months prior. I'm still shaking my head in disbelief and total admiration. Seriously, how is that humanly possible?

On the other hand, I know from living in Wemindji that this sort of miraculous teamwork is totally possible. It's brutally hard work, don't get me wrong, but it can happen with the right ingredients. Wemindji's powwow came to life thanks to a core group of

three community members, including April Dawn-Georgekish, Cassandra Danyluk and Earl Danyluk. Two gals and a dude, all with the same vision. A vision so purposeful and strong that it allowed them to do the near impossible – and do it well. This was clear as day, and reminded me that we can make miracles happen when intention is on our side.

Wemindji's powwow had been a long time in the making, and this summer was finally its time. Not so coincidentally, it was also the time for two of its community members to begin dancing. Lindsay Visitor danced at the powwow for the first time, and Marissa Georgekish danced in it for a second time after being initiated at Chisasibi's powwow. Clearly, it was a monumental experience for these two women.

"I had wanted to dance since I was a kid," Marissa told me. "I'd never heard of a powwow, but something was always there. Later, when I went to the Manawaki powwow, I met an Elder who looked at me and said, 'You look like a dancer.'"

For Marissa, who's always loved acting on stage, Jingle Dress dancing in her home community of Wemindji meant so much more than any of her other performances. "I felt really at home. I wasn't up there thinking 'Oh, I'm going to screw up.'" I thought, "Yes I'm here, and this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

Her family and friends thought so too.

"They were all really proud and supportive, and my uncles actually helped me to get my regalia."

As I stood and watched Marissa dancing in the sunlight, I knew that she wasn't the only one feeling the energy of her steps or her dress. All around me, I heard whispers of young girls saying to their mothers and aunts, "I want to do that someday too."

And that, my friends, is what real change looks like.

Powwow season in Eeyou Istchee

by Joshua Grant & Xina Cowan



POWOW ROUNDUP



Mistissini's
Fourth Annual
Niimuhiikan
Celebration

Big Rock's annual powwow took place August 20-21 with Luke MacLeod bringing on Justice Debassige as the new coordinator for Mistissini's fourth annual celebration. Inclement weather forced the powwow to move indoors to

the Neosweskau Sports Complex but MacLeod said weather conditions didn't dampen the spirit of an event that saw the hard work and planning of its organizing committee pay off with good community participation, touching special presentations and lots of youth involvement. "All of the [powwow] committee deserves recognition," said MacLeod.

"We're all volunteers so we give up personal time to make the event happen. So does the whole community – the band council, director general's office and the deputy chief, our Elders and the people who come every year. "There are always a lot of people who return either as performers, drummers or dancers. We'd like to thank them too. The locals

who help make regalia or teach people to dance and drum, they organize workshops and there were up to 15 younger children who danced for this first time this year." Some of the highlights of the 2016 Mistissini Powwow were the presentation of eagle feathers by Jason Coonishish in celebration of the life of his late son Chiiwetin and special

recognition for Mary Coon, an Elder originally from Mistissini who now lives in Wemotaci. Other activities included a jingle dance special and cash prizes for different dance competitions. MacLeod took to the Mistissini Powwow Group on Facebook to thank the organizing committee, also mentioning community Elders Thomas Coon, Mary

MacLeod, Francis Voyageur and Ken Nicholls. "I handed the reins over to Justice Debassige this year and he did a really good job helping organize the powwow," MacLeod said. "Next year will be our fifth one so it will be special. "Niimuhiikan, blessing of our Creator, we will meet at the same time again."



Congratulations to the Class of 2016 Willie J. Happyjack Memorial School



The Chief & Council of Waswanipi would like to acknowledge the following graduates and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

French sector:

Amanda Gull
Kerry Trapper
Chantal gull-Blacksmith
Antonio Otter
William gull
Abel Lalumière
Toronna Otter

English sector:

Johnny Vachon-Ottereyes
Quinton Blacksmith
Donovan Happyjack
Toby wapachee
Ray Cheecho

August 18 marked the 35th anniversary of Fort George's re-location to Chisasibi and a celebration of the time and effort put in to re-building and creating a new community infrastructure. This event took place just two weeks after the Chisasibi powwow August 5-7.

Chisasibi celebrates 35 years South of La Grande

The powwow featured locals Tauskimikuapaau (Heart of the Land) and

Chisasibi Singers, the Waseshkun Singers from Waswanipi and Northern Medicine from Eastmain plus out-of-town dancers Chief Joel Babin and Tanya Babin from Wagoshig, Ontario, as well as Mona Tolley and Gabriel Whiteduck from Kitigan Zibi.

Greg Sutherland and Gabriel Herodier were Chisasibi's emcees and once again bad weather meant the event had to be hosted indoors at the local arena, with a sacred fire burning near the band office. For its anniversary, Chisasibi organized activities for people of all ages.

"We had a barbecue, t-bone steaks, we had activities for toddlers, youth and adults," said Nellie Bobbish who helped organize both events and works with community mental health and wellness organization Brighter Futures. "There were bouncy castles, outdoor and indoor concerts with Claude McKenzie, Florent Vollant and Kashkun and we finished everything off with fireworks. The Elder's Council also helped organize other activities during the week, like an obstacle course available to anyone who wanted to participate."

Bobbish noted that the powwow and anniversary were a team effort with many individuals and organizations, including the Chisasibi Band Council, legislative department, Youth Council, Youth Development Department, Minor Sports Associations, Sports and Recreation Association, the Headstart Program and Brighter Futures.

"There was actually a whole bunch of us," she said. "Rhonda Spencer did all of the organizing and we worked together to make all of the events happen."

Photos by Pierre Langelier



Oujé-Bougoumou was forced to cancel its 2016 powwow and focus on forming a new organizing committee for 2017 that will be led by Olivia C. Salt under the guidance of former coordinator Redfern Mianscum.

"After six years I feel it is time for me to seek new ventures,"

said Mianscum in a statement on Facebook. "We apologize for any inconvenience we may have caused, but the celebration of life through the spirit of the drum will return. The songs will continue to echo through generations to come and we will continue to walk in beauty with the spirit of our ancestors. Aho!"

For those who didn't get the chance to enjoy a powwow experience in Eeyou Istchee this year, the Cree Nation of Eastmain is hosting celebrations this weekend.

Eastmain hosts its "Honouring our Land" celebration September 16-17 complete with a goose dance and drum social. The High Ridge

Singers from Moose Factory will be host drums and Kirby Mianscum from North Bay, Ontario, will emcee with Gabriel Herodier of Chisasibi.

Ron Shisheesh and Paula Menarick, also from Chisasibi, represent the head male and female dancers, with Clarence Trapper serving as head veteran.

Invited drums and special guests include White Tail Cree, Waseshkun and Chisasibi Singers, Northern Medicine, Colour Guards and the Subdury Dance Troupe. For more information, contact Clayton Tomatuk at 819-977-2262 ext. 222

O-J and Waswanipi
forced to cancel,
Eastmain still a go



Congratulations to

Bella M. Petawabano

on her recent election as the Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB).

Good luck on your journey to come!

Nation

514-272-3077 | news@nationnews.ca | www.nationnews.ca



BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS
We have what your business needs



PRINT



PROMO



SIGNAGE



TRANSLATION

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE!

514-272-3077 | info@beesum.com | beesum.com

Journalist Duncan McCue reflects on the Cree way of life in a recent memoir

BC reporter and host Duncan McCue was in the midst of a 10-month fellowship for leading journalists when one of his instructors challenged him to write about a teacher who had changed his life.

McCue thought about it, and then chose a Cree man – Chisasibi’s Robbie Matthew Sr. “I’ve been telling these stories forever,” said McCue by telephone. “Writing the book has been an exploration – of trying to figure out how he has influenced me in my adult life.”

The Shoe Boy: A Trapline Memoir recounts a season McCue spent as a 17-year-old on Matthew’s trapline. Bright and hard working, he had just graduated from a prestigious Ontario boarding school when his father, who was serving as the Cree School Board Director of Education Services, suggested the excursion.

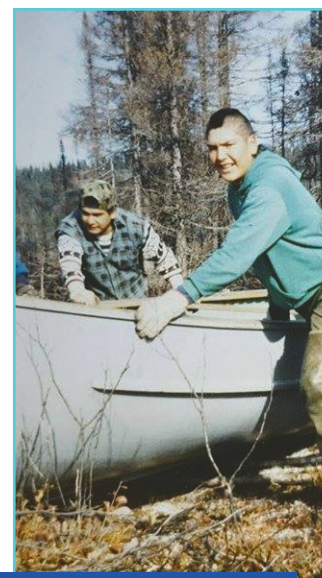
For McCue, it was a no-brainer. As a half-Ojibwe, half-Caucasian self-described “nerd” who felt disillusioned with “white” measures of success, McCue longed for a deeper connection to his Indigenous heritage. He had excelled at school.

But his frequent trips to Chisasibi – where he clumsily shooting ptarmigan for the first time – demonstrated the limits of his schooling. Yes, he could read and write with the best of them. But when it came to hunting, the Cree kids put him to shame.

“They possessed a knowledge and confidence I did not,” writes McCue, “to shoot a goose, set a snare, build a tent – to survive on the land. I wanted that. I wanted to be able to read the land as assuredly as I could delve into Shakespeare’s sonnets.”

Matthew’s connection and devotion to his trapline is a major theme of the book. McCue marvels at how thousands of years of Cree knowledge lives through Matthew’s actions. After a kill, Matthew sings to the animal. At one point, he shoots a bear and tracks it through the snow-covered forest. After harvesting its meat, he bundles up the bones and without explanation hands them to McCue to hang around the cabin. “He doesn’t explain why,” writes McCue. “But I get the point: Bears are strong medicine.”

McCue was not the first teenager Matthew and his family hosted. He



by Joel Barde

HUNTING IDENTITY

was, however, the first non-Cree. Matthew’s son Bruce, who slept next to McCue, and taught him basic Cree vocabulary. By the end, everyone seemed impressed with McCue’s progress. “I could converse fluently with a three-year-old,” McCue jokes.

McCue was a good student who was “searching for something,” said Bruce Matthew, who still lives in Chisasibi. “He was respectful and really interested in Cree ways.” The two remain friends, having reconnected several years ago through Facebook.

The Shoe Boy gives a candid account of McCue’s struggles with identity and self-worth, tying his personal narrative into a broader conversation on youth suicide in Indigenous communities. First Nations youth are 5-6 times more likely



than their non-Indigenous counterparts to take their own lives.

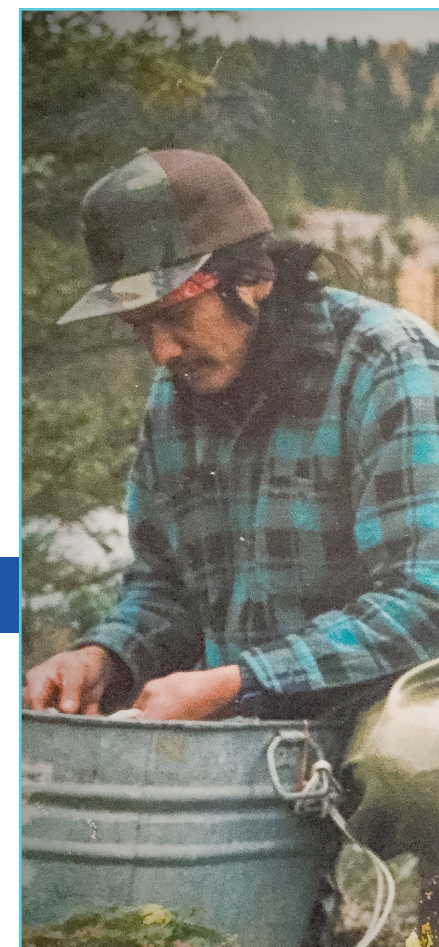
McCue sees cultural camps – which connect youth to Elders and teach traditional skills like hunting – as a powerful tool in the fight against suicide. The camps, he said, “give powerful lessons in terms of self-esteem. They take Aboriginal rights out of the abstract and turns them into something real.”

While much of the book is a meditation on McCue’s own healing journey, it weaves in a surprising amount of Cree history and thoughtful reflections on Cree culture. McCue’s observations range from the cerebral – as when he argues “hunting values continue to define contemporary Cree culture” – to the amusing, noting how CB radios keep hunting families apprised on

the most important Cree affairs: “births, deaths, fur prices and, not least, bingo and hockey scores.”

The James Bay hydro-electric project is a mixed legacy, he also observes. On one hand, it altered river flows, displaced Cree and flooded traplines. On the other, it led to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which increased levels of self-determination and gave rise to important new initiatives such the Income Security Program, which provides a living allowances for Cree hunters and their families.

That program, writes McCue, “acted as a parachute for Cree traditional knowledge, helping avert the catastrophic crash experienced by so many Indigenous peoples thrust



Left to right: Adrian & Bruce; Robbie Sr., Randy & Sally; Bruce

into contact with contemporary Western society.”

When Robbie Matthew Sr. was reached for this story, he had just returned from two weeks on his trapline. He said that the traditional teachings he shared with McCue are the “most important education” and that he can relate to feeling dislocated one’s culture. He spent 10 years in residential school.

“I wanted Duncan to know who we are and where we come from,” said Matthew. “These are two important issues I have had to learn myself. I had to go out on the land and ask questions. I’m 82, and I’m still learning from nature.”



TITLE: COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

STATUS: PERMANENT

CORE FUNCTION:

Under the general direction of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, but more specifically under the supervision of the Director of Human Resources, the Coordinator of Information Technology is responsible for providing technical expertise for all Information Technology (IT) networks and all IT systems with the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A university degree /college diploma Computer Sciences, Information Technology or related field;
- (5) Years of relevant experience in a related field;
- A working knowledge of IT operating systems, particularly windows, exchange;
- Hands on experience of installing IT hardware and software;
- Strong communications skill;
- Good organizational skills
- Good time management;

SALARY RANGE: Class 5: \$49,057.00 to \$73,586.00

DATE OF POSTING: September 16, 2016

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: October 14, 2016

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR FOR A DETAILED COPY OF THIS JOB OPPORTUNITY PLEASE
CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OF THE CNM AT (418) 923-3461**

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL APPLICATIONS TO:

Andrew Neeposh
Director of Human Resources
Cree Nation of Mistissini
187 Main Street
Mistissini, Qc G0W 1C0

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST PROVIDE CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND TWO REFERENCE
LETTERS.**



LACE EM' UP

by Dan Coyle

First Nations players inspire as hockey returns

While the sunny, sultry weather continues in southern Quebec, the hockey season is getting into full swing, as Team Canada prepares for the upcoming World Cup of Hockey.

All eyes will be on Carey Price, when the Montreal Canadiens goaltender returns to game action for the first time since suffering a lower body injury nine months ago.

A member of the Ulkatcho First Nation from Anahim Lake, BC, Price was subsequently sidelined for the remainder of the NHL season, but brings a healthy track record of success into the second edition of the World Cup of Hockey.

Price was outstanding while backstopping Canada to a gold medal at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, going undefeated in five contests, including a pair of shutout victories, and a sparkling 0.59 goals against average.

While Price and his teammates are expected to capture the imagination of First Nations hockey fans throughout September, there is also no shortage of Cree hockey players hitting the ice this month.

Moose Factory's Jonathan Cheechoo is best remembered for winning the NHL scoring title in 2006 as a member of the San Jose Sharks. But the affable right-winger has yet to slow down, and has just started his fourth year in the KHL, as a member of HC Slovan Bratislava in Slovakia.

"I am proud of everything I have achieved," explained Cheechoo in a recent interview with Slovak-language publication Pravda.

"I worked hard to get into the NHL, but you also have to play well in the KHL. When I was five or six years old, I did not even know about some Russian league. But as I got older, watching it, in addition to the NHL and international hockey, it is clearly good hockey."

Cheechoo is coming off a productive 38-point campaign with HC Dinamo Minsk, where he spent the past two seasons, and has tallied three points in his first five games in Bratislava.

Looking at the junior ranks, a trio of Eeyou Istchee youngsters have been making their presence felt at the training camp of the QMJHL's Val-d'Or Foreurs.

Waswanipi's Silas Mattawashish has enjoyed a regular shift on the Foreurs top two lines during the pre-season, and has not disappointed, recording a goal and an assist through five contests.

Wemindji's Linden Namagoose and Eastmain's Adam Cheezo have also received a long look at this year's camp.

Namagoose has patrolled the Val-d'Or blue line in two pre-season games to date. The 16-year-old has yet to pick up a point, but has got the job done defensively, and owns a plus/minus of +1 despite seeing action in a pair of Foreur losses.

Cheezo has recorded one assist in three games to date, as he looks to play his way back into a regular job with the Foreurs after recovering from a knee injury that limited him to just 28 games last season.

"I had to go home for a bit and slowly recover then come back but I've been working hard off the ice and on the ice trying to do my best [to get back into shape]," Cheezo told *the Nation*.

Waswanipi's Deverick Ottereyes knows all about the rigours of junior hockey after spending three years in the QMJHL, mostly with the PEI Rocket, now known as the Charlottetown Islanders.

Following a brief stint with the Temiscaming Titans of the GMHL last season, Ottereyes is preparing for his first season as a member of the Nipissing Lakers.

Enrolled in the business program at Nipissing University, Ottereyes "adds some size, speed and grit for the Lakers this upcoming season," said Lakers coach Mike McParland.

"It's a great feeling to continue playing the sport I love and as well getting a university education at the same time," added Ottereyes. "Especially coming from a small town in James Bay, I think it could have a positive influence on the youth."

Ottereyes and the Lakers make just one visit to the Montreal area this season, when they visit McGill University on Saturday January 21 in the team's final road date of the regular season.

Under the Northern Sky Faces of hope

by Xavier Kataquapit



This summer I have had the pleasure of being visited by some of my family members. It made me realize how things have changed back home in Attawapiskat. I see those changes in smiling faces of hope. My nephew Philip visited to show me his new truck. It really is an amazing vehicle and it was good to see him at only 24 years of age on a break from work, cruising around on a road trip.

My nieces Brianna, April and Julia also dropped in to say hi on their way to North Bay for college. The girls were hilarious and really brightened up my day. It was fantastic to see them in their new Jeep and heading off for fresh adventures in the city.

My brother Paul and his daughter Lynniah also paused on their trip south to Ottawa to join his wife Theresa and son Liam who had to be transported to the hospital there. Earlier in the summer my brother Lawrence stopped for coffee and brought me all kinds of healthy treats he and his wife Christine had prepared.

These visits with my family members made me realize that things have improved in so many ways for my people back in Attawapiskat. There are still a lot of problems: drug and alcohol abuse, and family violence. There is a lack of housing and a lot of young people feel lost in a community that is changing rapidly. Still, I see the benefits of my family, friends and neighbours back home having good, well-paying jobs and taking advantage of the opportunities in getting an education. That is a huge change over the past 20 years.

In the past, the community offered few employment opportunities, had no running water or indoor bathrooms. Drinking water had to be hauled from the river. That was only a couple of

decades ago. With the coming of De Beers and the Victor diamond mine a lot of things changed. For the most part those changes have been positive. People now have better lives and opportunities for real work. They are working at the mine, running companies associated with De Beers, starting up new businesses, getting training opportunities and living lives like non-Native people do in the outside world. Things are not perfect but they are getting better.

I have had the good fortune over the past two decades to watch what can happen when big resource companies work with First Nations at the table in terms of development on traditional lands. In northeastern Ontario, I have witnessed the Wabun Tribal Council of First Nations improve the lives of their community members with benefits from mining, forestry and hydro agreements. Resource companies now work with First Nations and share the wealth produced from their activities.

There are still many concerns from First Nation Elders and leadership in terms of caring for the environment, the land, the water, the air and the creatures that share this space with us. However, I have seen good agreements made between resource developers and First Nations that honour the land and put in place procedures and policies to lessen the impact of development. We will always have people who want to stop development at all levels, but most of our First Nation Elders and leadership

realize that it is better to join developers and government at the decision table. Our people need to make sure that opportunities in resource development go ahead while addressing our concerns for the environment and that we share in the benefits in terms of employment, training and community improvement.

Currently, De Beers is considering a new mine site. The Tango Extension is not far from the current Victor site that will be closing down in 2018. The company has invested over \$1 billion to develop the area. It makes sense that rather than close up and leave they stay on and mine the Tango Extension. Many Native people are counting on a future that provides jobs and training.

If the community and its members work with De Beers, good things are possible. None of us really want to go back to the days where the only opportunity to make money was to apply for the few jobs in the community or receive social assistance. We need to stay on track and make sure our future generations have hope for a better life. We cannot do that alone or in isolation. We have to learn to work together with government and industry to make sure that we are benefiting far into the future.



**MEGA CENTRE
Kubota**

☎ 819-874-1138
 🌐 megacentrekubota.com
 🏠 1885, 3^e Avenue, Val-d'Or Qc



Ready for Fall?
 We have what it takes to simplify your life!
 Come visit us today!

Only one Ford dealer in Val d'Or to SERVE YOU BETTER!

HARDY RINGUETTE



Dominic Hardy



Mario Frénette



Audrey Ringuette



Sophie Labrecque



Marie-Pier Dion



Daniel Ringuette



Michel Gaudreault



Luc Desjardins



Martin Lavoie



Lucie Beaudoin

Tel. (819) 874-5151

Your **LOW PRICE** dealer

1842, 3e avenue, Val-d'Or (Qc) J9P 7A9

Follow us on **Facebook** 

visit our web site: www.hardyringuette.ca



airCreebec

Your Northern Airline of choice!

We offer discounted rates and seat sales.*



For reservations, charters or information

Call toll-free: **1-800-567-6567**

Website: **www.aircreebec.ca**

*certain conditions apply to seat sales